

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 03378 262206Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8172

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 3378

FOR DEVINE ARA/LA/NC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CARACAS TOAST BY SECRETARY

HEREWITH FOLLOWS DRAFT OF PROPOSED TOAST BY SECRETARY IN CARACAS:

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR EXCELLENCY, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.
YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS EVENING AT THIS VERY WARM AND CORDIAL
GATHERING DOES ME GREAT HONOR. I HAVE READ A NUMBER OF NEWS
STORIES PUBLISHED IN THE VENEZUELAN PRESS DURING THE PAST MONTH
SUGGESTING THAT I WAS SNEAKED INTO YOUR COUNTRY SOME TIME AGO AND
WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HIDDEN AWAY IN A MYSTERIOUS, BUT UNDISCOVERED
LOCALE. THE FACT THAT SO MANY OF YOU HAVE MANAGED TO UNCOVER
MY HIDING PLACE TONIGHT IS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR INGENUITY AND
PERSEVERANCE.

I AM REMINDED OF A STORY TOLD ABOUT AN EUROPEAN STATESMAN
DURING ONE OF HIS VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS ASKED
BY A RATHER EXCITED WOMAN: "DOESN'T IT THRILL YOU, SIR, TO
KNOW THAT EVERYTIME YOU MAKE A SPEECH THE HALL IS PACKED TO
OVER-FLOWING?". THE STATESMAN REPLIED: "IT IS QUITE FLATTERING.
BUT WHENEVER I FEEL THIS WAY, I ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT, IF INSTEAD
OF MAKING A POLITICAL SPEECH, I WAS BEING HANGED, THE CROWD

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PAGE 02 CARACA 03378 262206Z

WOULD BE TWICE AS BIG."

AS I HAVE SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, I HAVE LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO MY TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE. WE HAVE HAD THE LONGEST, UNINTERRUPTED TRADITION OF FOREIGN POLICY IN OUR HISTORY WITH LATIN AMERICA, AND ESPECIALLY WITH VENEZUELA.

I THINK IT IS FITTING TO REPEAT HERE WHAT I SAID IN MY SPEECH IN HOUSTON LAST MONTH: THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA WERE BORN OUT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TYRANNY. OUR PEOPLES ARE BOUND NOT ONLY BY GEOGRAPHY, BUT BY THE COMMON HERITAGE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, DEDICATED TO A NEW WORLD OF JUSTICE, PEACE, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY. WITH COURAGE AND IMAGINATION, WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION THE ILLUSTRIOUS EXAMPLE OF THE GLOBAL INTER-DEPENDENCE SO NECESSARY FOR THE SURVIVAL AND WELL-BEING OF ALL PEOPLES EVERYWHERE.

THE QUARRELS AND SUSPICIONS OF THE PAST PALE IN IMPORTANCE TO THE CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO US THROUGH A DIALOGUE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND EQUALITY. I RECALL THE WORDS OF WINSTON CHURCHILL AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR. APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASSBURG AND PLEADING FOR THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE HE ASKED: "IS THE ONLY LESSON OF HISTORY TO BE THAT MANKIND IS UNTEACHABLE?"

I HAVE AN ABIDING FAITH IN THE INTELLIGENCE AND COMMON SENSE OF THE PEOPLES OF OUR GREAT COUNTRIES TO WORK IN HARMONY FOR THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS HEMISPHERE. I COME AWAY FROM MY FIRST VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA AS SECRETARY OF STATE WITH A STRONG SENSE OF A UNIVERSAL DESIR TO SURMOUNT THE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE DIVIDED US AND TO CREATE A NEW SPIRIT OF COMMUNICATION THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE. TO DO LESS, WOULD MAKE MOCKERY OF ALL THE SACRIFICES WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER AND WOULD DO A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I RAISE MY GLASS IN TOAST TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CARACA 03378 262206Z

HEALTH OF YOUR PRESIDENT AND TO THE CONTINUATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS TIES WHICH HAVE MARKED THE HISTORIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PROUD AND SOVEREIGN NATIONS.
END TEXT.
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